GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
PEOPLE`S PARTICIPATION IN RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10% people`s contribution is made compulsory in Rural Water Supply Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations have been received by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (e) Rural Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing drinking water supply in rural areas are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Rural Drinking Water component of the Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments. People`s contribution is not compulsory in the schemes implemented under these programmes.

However, reforms have been introduced in the Rural Water Supply sector with a view to institutionalising community participation in the rural water supply activities in order to ensure the sustainability of the systems and sources used for providing drinking water supply in the rural habitations. These reforms projects are implemented in a project mode, 63 districts have been identified by the State Governments for implementing these Sector Reform Projects on pilot basis.A part of the ARWSP funds is utilised for implementation of these projects, which is released separately to the implementing agencies in the pilot districts directly. Under these projects, the community actively participate in planning, sanctioning, funding, implementing and managing the rural water supply schemes of their own choice. As such, the community is required to share a minimum of 10% of the capital cost so as to inculcate a feeling of ownership towards their water supply scheme. Subsequen! tly, the community is required to shoulder the full responsibility of operation and maintenance of the scheme, after the same is taken over.

District implementing agencies are required to clarify the Sector Reform principles unambiguously to the community before the scheme is implemented through appropriate community development activities like awareness campaigns, capacity building and training programmes. They are expected to address any representations received by convening more interactive sessions with the community to convince people of the importance and the necessity to share a part of the capital cost and full operation and maintenance cost.